

government aid and nongovernment organizations like Christian Aid Ministries. I urge President Biden and this administration to leverage our relationship with the Haitian Government to secure the safe return of every member of this group.

The captivity of Americans, whether in Port-au-Prince, Kabul, or anywhere else, is an international crisis. President Biden's actions in this moment are assuredly being watched by those who would not hesitate to do our country harm and could have longstanding repercussions for Americans practicing their faith across the globe.

The United States must be clear: If you capture our citizens, our government will respond swiftly and decisively.

EXTENDING CHILD TAX CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. School supplies, gas for the car, swimming lessons, payment for rent, these are just a few of the ways my constituents in southeast Louisiana are spending their child tax credit payments. Especially as my community recovers from Hurricane Ida and has unexpected costs, the dependability of monthly child tax credits—an average of \$410 for my constituents—has meant a lot.

While this program expires at the end of December, the problems facing American children and families will not. The Build Back Better Act includes provisions to continue this program.

Studies show that extending the child tax credit permanently is sound economic policy and that it can be done better to have better healthcare, better health outcomes, and more economic opportunities for families.

We need to put our money where our mouth is and invest in our children, invest in our families, and pass the Build Back Better Act.

REMEMBERING MUSICIAN BENNIE PETE

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, COVID-19 has taken over 725,000 lives. One person gone too soon that I want to highlight is Bennie Pete, a New Orleans jazz musician. He passed away at the age of 45 from complications of COVID-19, shortly after deciding to get his first vaccine shot.

Bennie played the tuba and co-founded the celebrated Hot 8 Brass Band. Born in the Upper Ninth Ward, he helped found the band by the age of 18. They played on street corners, parades, and funerals, and then at bars and bigger venues, and as second lines.

When Hurricane Katrina hit, Hot 8 brought music to the city in a way that only New Orleans can in the challenging days after the storm, playing at evacuation shelters and medical centers. The band became local heroes, a sense of hope, a sense of energy in the days immediately following great despair.

The Hot 8 grew in popularity, touring in Europe and playing at Tipitina's and the Jazz and Heritage Festival.

New Orleans will never be the same. We have lost a little bit of our soul with the passing of Bennie Pete. May he rest in peace.

IMPROVING LOUISIANA'S ENVIRONMENT AND INDUSTRY

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, Louisiana's Second Congressional District includes an industrial corridor of nearly 150 oil refineries, plastic plants, and chemical facilities. Many sites provide high-paying jobs that lift families out of poverty or build a better life. But it is, foremost, a place that my constituents call home.

As their Congressman, it is my job to make sure that it is a safe and prosperous place to live. Sadly, there have been longstanding concerns over elevated and disproportionate rates of cancer and respiratory conditions in this region. It shouldn't be this way. Industry and community can coexist, with proper monitoring and regulation.

That is why I am calling on EPA Administrator Regan for Federal assistance to study, monitor, and improve the impacts of emissions and polluting substances in the river parishes. No one should have to die for their job.

I stand ready to bring both environmental stewardship and a robust economy to Louisiana. We can do this. We must do this.

RECOGNIZING BRAS FOR A CAUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

As a physician, and also as a member of our society and country and the female gender, we are all familiar with the amazing work the Komen Foundation and Komen Race for the Cure have done to raise awareness, education, and research in breast cancer.

I would like to take the time to recognize an extraordinary group in my district that has found a creative way to help underserved women in the Ottumwa community receive annual mammogram screenings and breast ultrasounds.

Founded in 2011 by two-time breast cancer survivor and River Hills Community Health Center nurse Laurie Hornback, Bras for a Cause is an annual fundraising event held in Hedrick, Iowa, where donated and decorated bras are modeled by local firefighters and auctioned off. Over the past 10 years, the event has raised a total of \$174,000 to help women receive breast cancer screenings or treatment.

This year, Bras for a Cause raised a total of \$27,000, and they will be donating \$15,000 to help Ottumwa women receive breast cancer screenings at River Hills Community Health Center in

Ottumwa. Additionally, a portion of the remaining funds was donated to the Mahaska Health Partnership, while the rest is being saved to help women currently diagnosed with breast cancer undergo treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Laurie and Bras for a Cause for coming together to put on this fantastic event and for their service to our community.

RECOGNIZING SARA RUSSELL, IOWA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a teacher from my district who recently received a prestigious Iowa award for her work to inspire the next generation.

Last week, Sara Russell, who has been teaching social studies for nearly 20 years at Pleasant Valley High School in Bettendorf, was awarded the Department of Education's 2022 Teacher of the Year Award by Governor Kim Reynolds.

The Iowa Teacher of the Year Award was established in 1958 to recognize educators who go above and beyond to motivate and inspire students to achieve at their highest levels.

Sara was selected for this award for her leadership in helping students build life skills while also being a mentor for new teachers in the Pleasant Valley School District.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sara and all educators who work to inspire the next generation of American leaders and make Iowa the best place to learn, live, work, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING ERIC VANDER VELDEN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to share a story about educators in my district literally going the extra mile to ensure their students' success.

For the last few months, the Newton School District in Jasper County has reported a shortage of bus drivers, leaving many parents and students uncertain about how they would be able to make it to school each morning. In a rural area, our bus transportation to school is extremely important.

With the importance of education and safety in mind, Eric Vander Velden, a physical education teacher in the Newton School District, answered the call for help by driving a school bus when needed. This is part of a larger effort by the Newton staff, in concert with parents, to do whatever they can to help their students succeed.

It is stories like these that remind us that our teachers are the backbone of this country, and I couldn't be more confident in our future, knowing that the next generation is in their capable hands.

HONORING THOMAS STRAYER NELSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas

Strayer Nelson of Ilion, New York, who turns 100 years old today.

Mr. Nelson is one of the last living survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He joined the Navy right out of high school and was assigned to the USS *Wasmuth*, a Clemson-class destroyer that was docked in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He left the Navy as a first class electrician's mate.

On that fateful day 80 years ago, 19-year-old Thomas Strayer Nelson was lying in his bunk aboard the ship docked in Pearl Harbor when the alarms sounded. Sensing trouble, Tom made it topside where he saw several Japanese planes bombing American ships. He quickly assessed that this was not a drill.

Tom quickly jumped on his .50 caliber machine gun and successfully helped defend the *Wasmuth* and its crew on that fateful day.

The wreckage was devastating. Nearly 20 U.S. ships were damaged or sank at sea, and more than 2,400 Americans, including civilians, were killed.

Tom remembers crying that day during the aftermath, but Tom's heroism did not stop there. Nearly 1 year later, in December 1942, the *Wasmuth* was escorting a convoy when it was knocked off its tracks and two mines exploded below the ship. The *Wasmuth* sank, but 134 crew, including Tom, were rescued due in large part to Tom's efforts.

Tom came back home and was an electrical inspector for over 27 years in his hometown of Ilion, New York, where he has resided for nearly his entire life. I had the great honor of meeting Tom this past weekend. At the age of 99, now 100 today, he was full of life and very engaging, and he also had a wonderful sense of humor. I also had the pleasure of meeting his daughter, Janice, with whom he has been living the past 2 years and who provides great care for him, and his son, John, who is also providing loving care to Tom. John is a former State trooper who has now taken on the mantle of also being an electrician in his father's legacy.

□ 1115

I just want to say also about the wonderful family from this small community, Tom's late wife, Gladys Cooley, passed away in 2015. He also had a daughter who passed away and a son, Tom, who died very young from rheumatoid arthritis.

I just wanted to take this special time to recognize and thank someone who is part of our Greatest Generation from my community, one of the last survivors of Pearl Harbor who actually was there when this occurred. I want to thank his family and everyone for hosting me, greeting me, and giving me the real unique opportunity to meet with this great hero of our country.

I want to say thank you again to Tom for his heroism, his service, and his bravery. I wish him another 100 years of good health and good cheer. I look forward to seeing him again when I return to my hometown.

Here's to many years ahead.

ENERGY CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is facing avoidable crises on many fronts. Because of President Biden's and the Democrats' failed leadership, Americans are dealing with a border crisis, an inflation crisis, a spreading crime crisis, and a crisis in Afghanistan. And now, with the national average for a gallon of gas hitting \$3.30 last week—a 7-year high—we are also facing an energy crisis.

Let me be clear: the responsibility for this crisis belongs at the feet of none other than President Joe Biden. His anti-energy agenda has destroyed American jobs and ended America's energy independence. On his first day in office, the President killed 11,000 jobs by canceling the Keystone pipeline, and one of his first executive orders paused new oil and gas leasing on U.S. lands and waters. That executive order alone will cost approximately 1 million American jobs in the near term and will decrease U.S. gross domestic product by \$700 billion.

That same order also puts America's energy security at risk. To make up for slowed production in the United States, U.S. imports from foreign sources will increase by 2 million barrels a day, and through 2030 we would spend \$500 billion more on energy from foreign suppliers. Instead of making it easier for American companies to increase American oil and gas production and hire more U.S. workers, President Biden begged OPEC and Russia to increase global output to ease rising prices.

It is a shame. The President has made us more reliant on dangerous adversaries overseas rather than maintaining policies that had us on the verge of energy independence.

It would be great if Joe Biden would reverse course and turn, once again, to an all-of-the-above American energy solution that ensures we are reliant on no one but ourselves; but, instead, I guess we are just going to have to lower our expectations.

A CRUEL CHOICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, forcing the Federal Government into Americans' private lives is Joe Biden's twisted idea of unity. It is sickening to me that this President is creating a situation where some Americans need to pick between keeping their jobs or taking the coronavirus vaccine.

This is a cruel way to treat Americans trying to earn a living. Even worse, Biden's vaccine mandate applies to brave military soldiers willing to die

for us, Federal contractors, and the intelligence community. If too many are forced out of their positions, it will jeopardize America's ability to assess and address threats.

Mr. Speaker, you do not need to look very hard for possible consequences.

Over the weekend, our government's top intelligence personnel were caught off guard by the People's Liberation Army's test of a hypersonic missile capable of traveling at 25,000 miles per hour. Imagine that missile flying toward the homeland and important government or military roles were vacant because folks were fired over the vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, the result would be catastrophic.

Biden needs to back off his tyrannical impulses and allow Americans to decide for themselves on the coronavirus vaccine. If he doesn't, talented folks are going to exit critical national security jobs, and this clueless President will blunder his way into yet another crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, Heaven and Earth are held in Your hand. You who have determined the number of stars and given each their name, You who have set the Pleiades and Orion in the sky, You are our North Star, the constant in this changing universe, and we look to You for direction.

Cast our eyes upon Your brightness, that we would discover the immutability of Your character and revive our strength. In a world full of variables, may Your unchanging nature ever be our guard and stay.

When there is no one on whom we can rely, may we rely on You.

When there is nothing we can trust, may we trust You.

When we are lost, adrift in the sea of confusion, may we anchor ourselves in You.

And when we are fearful for our lives or livelihood, may You be our source of courage and purpose.